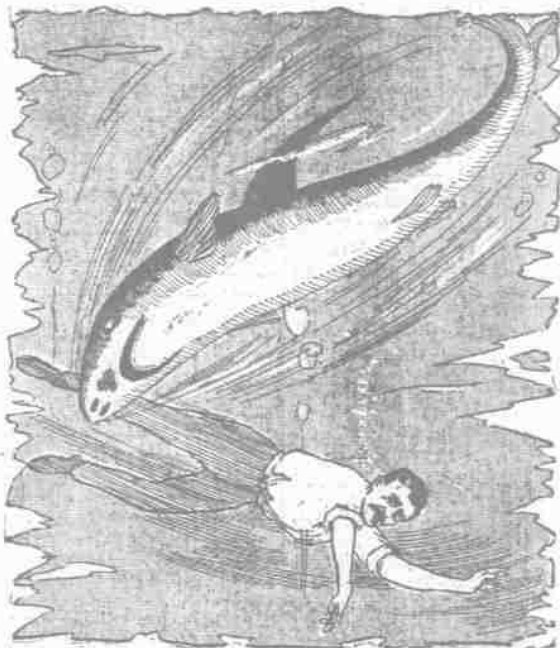


MEXICAN PRISONER-OF-WAR SWIMS FOR LIFE FROM MAN-EATING SHARK



The Man-Eater Swung Across Just Over His Head.

Vera Cruz, Mexico, July 9.—Of all the hairbreadth escapes of these turbulent years in Mexico, none perhaps is so remarkable as the experience of Manuel Rojas Gonzales.

Safe at home again in Vera Cruz, with his wife and children, he tells the strange story of his dash to freedom from the castle of San Juan de Ulua—the only prisoner who has escaped alive from that grim fortress in 400 years.

No other jail in the world has such wardens. The ancient fortress stands on the Gallega reef, off Vera Cruz, with a 300-yard channel between when the tide is out. Patrolling this

channel and the outer waters ceaselessly, day and night, are scores of man-eating sharks.

Hundreds of prisoners have tried to swim to the mainland, but always the "tigers of the sea" found their prey.

Gonzales was sent there as a political prisoner by Francisco I. Madero in the fall of 1911.

He was placed in one of the "incomunicado" cells, far down in the third tier, dug out of the coral reef on which the castle stands, with the sea roaring beyond and above. His cell was six feet long and four wide, and the stone ceiling struck his head